



19 July, 2024

Decline in Childhood Immunization Rates in India

Context: Immunization coverage in India fell to 85% during the first two years of the pandemic, down from 91% in 2019.

➤ Recent Findings:

- **WHO and UNICEF estimates** (WUENIC) revealed a slight dip in childhood immunisation in 2023 compared to 2022.
- DPT vaccine coverage dropped from 95% in 2022 to 93% in 2023.

➤ Comparison with Previous Years:

- Despite the dip, 2023 coverage (93%) was higher than 2020 (87%) and 2021 (88%).
- The 2023 global average DPT coverage stood at 89%.

➤ Global Stagnation:

- Immunisation stalled globally in 2023, with 2.7 million additional children either unvaccinated or under-vaccinated compared to 2019.

➤ Zero-Dose Children in India:

- India had 1.6 million zero-dose children in 2023, up from 1.1 million in 2022, but down from 2.73 million in 2021.
- The number was higher than in 2019, which saw 1.4 million zero-dose children.

➤ Under-Vaccination in India:

- Coverage of the third dose of the DPT vaccine stood at 91% in 2023, a two percentage point dip from 2022.
- The 2023 coverage was still higher than the global average of 84%.
- During the first two years of the pandemic, coverage had dropped to 85%, from 91% in 2019.
- In 2023, 2.04 million children remained under-vaccinated, slightly lower than the 2.11 million in 2019.

Universal Immunisation Program

➤ Introduction and Integration:

- Introduced in 1985.
- Integrated into the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Program in 1992.
- Became part of the National Reproductive and Child Health Programme in 1997.
- Crucial component of the National Rural Health Mission since 2005.

➤ Vaccines Provided:

- **Nationally against 9 diseases:**
 - Diphtheria
 - Pertussis
 - Tetanus
 - Polio
 - Measles

- Rubella (a severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis)
- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis & Pneumonia (caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B)

• Sub-nationally against 3 diseases:

- Rotavirus diarrhoea
- Pneumococcal Pneumonia
- Japanese Encephalitis

➤ Mission Indradhanush

• Announcement and Objective:

- Announced in December 2014.
- Aims to speed up full immunisation coverage for all children and expectant women.
- Focuses on reenergizing the immunisation program.

• Coverage and Impact:

- Targets children under two and pregnant women for full immunisation.
- Identified 201 high-priority districts with partially or never immunized children.
- Full immunisation coverage increased from 1% per year to 6.7% per year after the first two phases.
- Four phases carried out until August 2017, vaccinating over 2.53 billion children and 68 lakh expectant mothers.

• Intensified Mission Indradhanush

- Launched on October 8, 2017, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Aims to enhance the immunisation campaign significantly.
- Targets every child under two and all pregnant women not vaccinated under UIP.

Electronics manufacturing ecosystem of India

Context: NITI Aayog released the report titled "Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains".

➤ Importance of Global Value Chains (GVCs)

- GVCs are crucial in modern manufacturing, encompassing international collaboration across design, production, marketing, and distribution.
- They account for 70% of international trade.
- India needs to enhance its participation in GVCs, especially in electronics, semiconductors, automobiles, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- Electronics exports rely heavily on GVCs, with 75% of exports originating from them.

➤ Growth of India's Electronics Sector

- The electronics sector in India grew rapidly, reaching USD 155 billion in FY23.

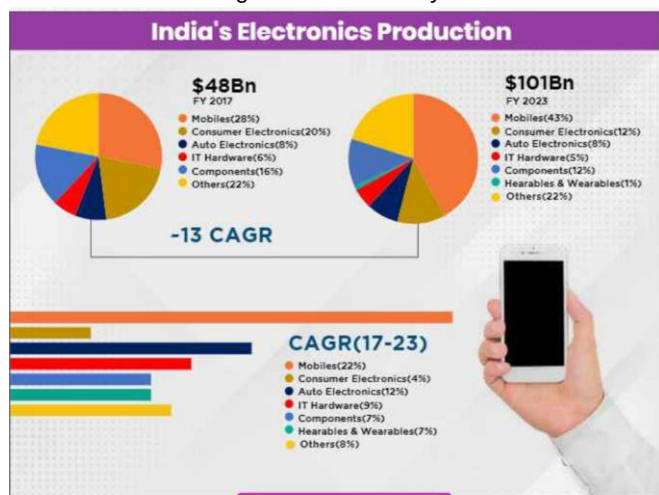
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- Production almost doubled from USD 48 billion in FY17 to USD 101 billion in FY23.
- Mobile phones are a major driver, making up 43% of total electronics production.
- India reduced smartphone import dependency, manufacturing 99% domestically.



➤ Government Initiatives and Investments

- Initiatives like Make in India and Digital India, improved infrastructure, and ease of doing business have boosted domestic manufacturing and attracted foreign investments.
- Despite these advances, India's electronics market remains moderate, representing only 4% of the global market.
- The sector has primarily focused on assembly with limited design and component manufacturing capabilities.

➤ Global Electronics Market

- The global electronics market is valued at USD 4.3 trillion, dominated by China, Taiwan, USA, South Korea, Vietnam, and Malaysia.
- India exports approximately USD 25 billion annually, less than 1% of the global share, despite having a 4% share in global demand.
- Enhancing competitiveness requires localizing high-tech components, strengthening design capabilities through R&D investments, and forming strategic partnerships with global technology leaders.

➤ Current and Future Production Values

- As of FY23, India's electronics production is valued at USD 101 billion, with USD 86 billion in finished goods and USD 15 billion in components manufacturing.
- Exports totalled ~USD 25 billion, contributing 15%-18% in domestic value addition and generating approximately 1.3 million jobs.
- Projections under a Business As Usual (BAU) scenario indicate electronics manufacturing could

reach USD 278 billion by FY30, with employment growing to around 3.4 million and exports hitting USD 111 billion.

➤ Ambitious Vision for Growth

- To become the third-largest global economy, India aims to achieve USD 500 billion in electronics manufacturing by FY30.
- This includes USD 350 billion from finished goods and USD 150 billion from components manufacturing.
- Projected employment could rise to 5.5 million to 6 million, with electronics exports reaching USD 240 billion and domestic value addition increasing to over 35%.

➤ Strategic Diversification

- India plans to scale up production in established segments such as mobile phones and enter emerging areas like wearables, IoT devices, and automotive electronics.
- This diversification will meet evolving consumer demands and technological advancements, positioning India as a global leader in innovative electronic products.

➤ Recommendations for Strategic Interventions

- The report recommends interventions across fiscal, financial, regulatory, and infrastructure domains.
- Key actions include promoting components and capital goods manufacturing, incentivising R&D and Design, tariff rationalization, skilling initiatives, facilitating technology transfers, and infrastructure development.
- These measures aim to foster a robust electronics manufacturing ecosystem in India.

Foreigner Tribunals

Context: Assam government instructed the State police's Border wing not to forward cases of non-Muslims who entered India illegally before 2014 to the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs).

➤ Origin and Purpose

- **Formation:** Established through the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order of 1964 under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act of 1946.
- **Function:** To let local authorities refer suspected foreigners to tribunals for determination.
- **Current Scope:** Exclusive to Assam; other states use the Foreigners Act for handling illegal immigrants.

➤ Structure and Members

- **Leadership:** Each FT is headed by a member with judicial experience, such as judges, advocates, or civil servants.
- **Numbers:** The Ministry of Home Affairs stated there are 300 FTs in Assam, but only 100 are currently functioning.

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- **Appointment:** Members are appointed under the Foreigners Tribunal Act, 1941, and Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1984.

- **Eligibility:**

- Retired judicial officers, civil servants with judicial experience, or practising advocates with at least seven years of practice.
- Must know Assam's official languages and be familiar with the historical context of the foreigners' issue.

➤ **Role of the Border Police**

- **Establishment:** Created in 1962 under the Prevention of Infiltration of Pakistani (PIP) scheme; became independent in 1974.
- **Functions:**
 - Detecting and deporting illegal foreigners.
 - Patrolling the India-Bangladesh border.
 - Monitoring areas with high foreigner settlement.
 - Referring suspicious individuals to FTs for citizenship verification.

- **Personnel:** Consists of 4,037 members, with 3,153 posts sanctioned by the Centre and 884 by the Assam government.

- **Quasi-judicial Bodies:** Determine if a person is a foreigner.
- **NRC Exclusions:** Handle cases of individuals excluded from the NRC.
- **Authority:** Only FTs can declare a person a foreigner under the Foreigners Act 1946 and Order 1964.

➤ **FT Functioning**

- **Powers:** FTs have civil court powers for summoning individuals, examining on oath, and requiring document production.
- **Process:**
 - Serve notice within 10 days of receiving a case.
 - The individual has 10 days to respond and another 10 days to provide evidence.
 - The tribunal must decide the case within 60 days.
 - Failure to prove citizenship can result in detention for deportation.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Sakambari Festival



Recently, the devotees were seen making vegetable garlands to decorate the Kanaka Durga temple for the Sakambari festival in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

About the Sakambari Festival:

- The Shakambari Devi festival is a **three-day celebration** that takes place at the Kanaka Durga temple in **Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The festival is **dedicated to Goddess Shakambari Devi, an incarnation of the goddess Durga** and is **believed to bring rain, good harvests** and plentiful vegetable yields.
- During the festival, the presiding deity, **Goddess Kanaka Durga**, is decorated with fruits and vegetables and appears to devotees as Shakambari Devi for three days.
- The festival also includes special pujas and temple illuminations.
- Some rituals that take place during the festival including **Vigneswara Puja, Ruthvik Varuna, Punyavachanam, Akhanda Deeparadhana, Ankurarpanam, Vastu Homam, Kalasa Sthapana** and Saptashati and **Mahavidya recitations**.

KIRTI Program



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will inaugurate the second phase of the Government's KIRTI program/initiative in New Delhi today on 19th July 2024.

About the KIRTI Program:

- The KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) Program is the **first large-scale** scouting and assessment program of its kind in India.
- This initiative **aims to streamline the process of grassroots talent identification** on a single platform.
- The project **aims to achieve 20 Lakh** assessments in **2024-25** by onboarding all states.
- This program was **launched in Chandigarh on 12th March 2024**.
- The long-term vision of the KIRTI Program is for India to become a **top 10 sports nation by 2036** and a **top 5 sports nation by 2047**.
- The KIRTI Program is **athlete-centric**, uses **modern ICT tools** and global best practices, and conducts district-level assessments for broad-based talent identification and mass participation.
- This program is a **part of the Khelo India Scheme**, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for sports development.

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MANAS Portal



Recently, the Union Home Minister launched the MANAS Portal.

About the MANAS Portal:

- The MANAS Portal (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra) is a **digital platform**, launched during the **7th NCORD top-level meeting**.
- The portal includes a **toll-free number, 1933, a web portal, a mobile app** and is available on the **UMANG app**.
- It aims to **provide advice on de-addiction and rehabilitation** and to facilitate the sharing of information on drug trafficking.
- A "**Centre of Excellence for Narcotics Control**" has been established to enhance capacity-building.
- The "**Mission Spandhan**" initiative has been launched to increase public awareness regarding drug-related issues.
- A new **zonal office will be set up in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**, to focus on curbing drug trafficking through the **northwestern border of India**.

Haemorrhagic Disease



Recently, the Kerala's forests recorded 845 elephant deaths between 2015 and 2023, with studies indicating an increasing trend in the death due to Haemorrhagic Disease.

About Haemorrhagic Disease:

- Haemorrhagic disease is a general term for **bleeding disorders** and can include **viral infections** that cause bleeding.
- Haemorrhagic diseases include **Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers** (such as Ebola, Marburg, Lassa fever, and Dengue) and **Non-Viral conditions** (such as Haemophilia and Vitamin K deficiency).
- Causes of haemorrhagic disease include **viral infections disrupting clotting, genetic disorders** like Haemophilia affecting blood clotting and nutritional deficiencies such as **Vitamin K deficiency**.
- Common symptoms of this disease include **bleeding from the gums, nosebleeds**, easy bruising and internal bleeding, while severe cases can lead to uncontrolled bleeding, shock and organ failure.
- Viral haemorrhagic fevers are transmitted through direct contact with infected fluids or vectors, **genetic disorders are inherited** and not contagious and nutritional deficiencies are related to dietary insufficiencies and are not infectious.

Place in News

Ivory Coast

Recently, Ivory Coast joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African nation to do so.

Ivory Coast (Capital: Yamoussoukro)

Location: Ivory Coast, officially known as the **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**, is a country on the southern coast of **West Africa**.

Boundaries: Ivory Coast shares its borders with **Ghana (East)**, **Liberia** and **Guinea (West)**, **Mali** and **Burkina Faso (North)** and **Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean)** to the south.

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Ivory Coast is **Mount Nimba** which is the part of the Nimba Range, located along the border with **Guinea and Liberia**.
- Major rivers in Ivory Coast include the **Bandama, Komoé, Sassandra, Tanoé and Cavally** rivers.
- Ivory Coast is rich in minerals, including **gold, manganese, bauxite, nickel and diamond**.
- Ivory Coast has a **tropical climate**.

Membership: Ivory Coast is a member of several international organizations, including the **United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** and the **Union for the Mediterranean**.

Independence: Ivory Coast gained independence from France on **August 7, 1960**.



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Current affairs summary for prelims

19 July, 2024

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which operation led to the rescue of 84,119 children by the Railway Protection Force over the last 7 years?
– **Operation Nanhe Farishtey**
- Cassini's radar observations provided new details about which feature on Saturn's moon Titan? – **Seas of liquid hydrocarbons**
- Which project, launched by the Ministry of Education along with two other initiatives, aims to promote multilingualism in education and is aligned with the New Education Policy, 2020? – **Asmita Project**
- Where was the world's first commercial passenger ferry powered by 100% hydrogen fuel, the MV Sea Change, recently launched?
– **San Francisco Ferry Building, California**
- Which river is being studied for use as National Waterways-101 for cargo and passenger transportation? – **Tizu Zunki**

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